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## DIGEST

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Roy

HB No. 361

**Abstract:** Allows for an interested party to an accident to inspect a crash report without cost during normal business hours. Further removes confidentiality provisions and the exemption from laws pertaining to Louisiana's public record laws. Changes the time for availability of the accident report and provides exemptions for news-gathering organizations.

Present law requires state police, any local police department, or any sheriff's office to provide copies of crash reports to any interested person upon request and may charge a fee not to exceed the sum of \$5 per report that does not exceed two pages, and \$7.50 per report that exceeds two pages.

Proposed law adds a provision to require the state police, any local police department, or any sheriff's office to allow inspection of an accident report without cost during normal business hours.

Present law requires that the information contained in the accident reports shall be confidential, exempt from the provisions of the public records laws, and shall be made available only to parties of the accident; insurers of any party subject to the report; the succession representatives; or to a news-gathering organization that requests documents related to the accident. Present law further provides that the report shall be made available to these persons within seven working days following completion of the accident investigation.

Proposed law removes the requirement for confidentiality and the exemption from the provisions of the public records laws regarding the accident report and the information contained in the reports. Proposed law further removes the restriction that the report shall only be provided to the parties of the accident; insurers of any party subject to the report; the succession representatives; or to a news-gathering organization that requests documents related to the accident.

Proposed law changes the time for availability of the report from seven days to three days.

Proposed law exempts members of news-gathering organizations from any prohibition on screening accident reports. Further provides that an agency may redact only social security numbers, driver's license numbers, names and addresses of law enforcement officers engaged in undercover activities, and the names of minors.

(Amends R.S. 32:398(F) and (K)(1)(a) and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(17))